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**Human Rights Council**
**Thirty-fifth session**
6–23 June 2017
Agenda item 9

## Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 23 June 2017

### 35/30. Consideration of the elaboration of a draft declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent

*The Human Rights Council*,

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Recalling* the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other relevant international instruments,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 56/266 of 27 March 2002, in which the Assembly endorsed the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

*Reaffirming* the commitments contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action with regard to people of African descent,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013, by which the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development",

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 69/16 of 18 November 2014, in which the Assembly adopted the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade,

*Recalling further* all previous Human Rights Council resolutions on the comprehensive follow-up to the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

*Recalling* all its previous resolutions on the global elimination of the scourges of racism and racial discrimination,

*Recalling also* the three Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination previously declared by the General Assembly, and regretting that the

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Programmes of Action for those Decades were not fully implemented and that their objectives have yet to be attained,

*Taking note* of all relevant reports of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, and all relevant general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,

1. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 69/16 on the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, in which the Assembly recommended giving consideration to the elaboration of a draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent;

2. *Notes with concern* that, despite advances in international and national law, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, direct and indirect, de facto and de jure, continue to manifest themselves in inequality and disadvantage against people of African descent;

3. *Notes* that people of African descent and Africans in the diaspora throughout the world constitute some of the poorest and most marginalized groups;

4. *Acknowledges* that people of African descent can suffer from multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as age, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, disability, birth or other status;

5. *Calls upon* all Member States to adopt effective measures to accelerate the realization of the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade, in partnership with other countries, intergovernmental organizations and civil society, as appropriate;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of enhancing international cooperation for the prevention and protection of all human rights and for the achievement of the objectives of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

7. *Urges* States to ensure that activities and objectives for the International Decade are planned and implemented in accordance with paragraph 10 of the programme of activities for the implementation of the Decade, on the basis of full consultation and collaboration with people of African descent;

8. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action:

(*a*) To include in the programme of work for its sixteenth session a one-day meeting to consider the elaboration of a draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent;

(*b*) To invite States, relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, the treaty bodies, the special procedures, regional human rights mechanisms, civil society organizations, academia, national human rights institutions and other relevant stakeholders to participate actively in the aforementioned discussions during the sixteenth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate the necessary resources to ensure the participation of civil society organizations, particularly people of African descent, as well as members of academia, in the meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group, taking into account geographical and gender representation criteria;

10. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Working Group, through its Chair-Rapporteur, to report on the above-mentioned discussion, including any recommendations stemming therefrom, to the Human Rights Council at its fortieth session;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate the necessary resources to ensure the participation of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, in the meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group to contribute to the aforementioned discussions, including on issues related to the format and scope of a possible declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent;

12. *Encourages* States to engage in national and regional consultations with a view to preparing for the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of this important matter.

*37th meeting*
*23 June 2017*

[Adopted without a vote.]